A Full and True

ACCOUNT

Of the VVonderful Eruptions of a Prodigious

Burning Mountain,

VVhich caſt out vaſt quantities of FIRE *to the Deſtruction of ſeveral whole* TOVVNS.

Together with a Relation of a VVonderful

EARTH-QUAKE.

Likewiſe Strange and VVonderful News from Ireland; *giving a Relation of a Great Flood that hapened there by Rain.*

As it tis now ſent in a Letter to His Majeſty

This may be Printed Nov. *the* 28th. 1687. R. P.

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ACCOUNT

Of the Wonderful Eruptions of a Prodigious

BURNING MOUNTAIN.

Together with a Relation of a Wonderful

EARTH-QUAKE, &c.

THE wonderful Eruptions of this *Burning Mountain* its prodigious Vomiting of Fire, have for many Ages been the Subject of all Mens Admiration; but certainly they never more justly challeng'd the Worlds Astonishment, than by that dismal Inundation of Fire; whereof here is a Relation.

This *Burning Mountain* is distant from the City *Catanianople* 15 Miles; 'tis of a wonderful height, and about 15 Miles in length, and 7 in breadth; it Burns continually on the Top, but it has been observ'd for many Ages, that once in 15 Years it casts out Flames of Fire more then ordinary, with Stones, and great quantities of Ashes. But in the Year 1669 on *Saturday* the 19*th.* of *March*, it rag'd so furiously that with its most dismal Inundation it threatnd

the Ruine of the whole *Island*. It began not without some signs, for the Sun was observ'd on the *Friday*, before its setting, to appear of a pale and dead Colour, which struck great Terrour into the Inhabitants. But in the Night there happen'd a terrible and unusual *Earth-quake*, which shook not only the City but all the Country, so violently that the People were forced to abandon their houses, and fly into the open Fields to avoid the danger which threatned them from the falling of their Houses. It continu'd so long and with such violence, that shook down a whole Village called *Nicolosi*, whilst the poor people stood with Grief and Astonishment, beholding from afar the ruine of all they had: but observing the Earth to open in many places, their Terrour carried them to the City *Catania*, which was not used so roughly by the *Earth-quake*, where they entered so affrighted that they were wholy Insensible of what they did.

This dreadful *Earth-quake* was follow'd by 3 Terrible Eruptions, much about the same time, and a little distance from one another. They were observ'd to be of the side of the *Mountain Gebello*, from whence with a terrible Noise it threw up its Flames with wonderful fury and violence as high as any Steeple in His Majesties Kingdoms, its Noise not Roaring (as before) inward and from the Belly of the *Mountain*, but violently cracking like Peals of Thunder, from he side of it throwing out vast Stones, some of them 300 pound weight, which being as it were Shot through he Air, fell several Miles distant from the place, whilst

whilſt the whole Air was fil'd with Smoak, Burning Sinders, and Aſhes, which fell like a Fiery Rain upon the Country.

In the mean time a vaſt Torrent of melted and burning Matter iſſu'd from the ſide of this prodigious *Mountain*, and running down the *Mountain Monpileri*, divided it ſelf into two ſtreams, the greateſt of which took its courſe towards the Towns of *Monpileri*, and *Falicchi*, which in few hours it utterly deſtroy'd, leaving not ſo much as the leſt remainder of either; Beſides leſſer Villages and Farms which ſtood in its way. Quickly after it over-flowed the Fields for above ſix miles in compaſs, like a Fiery Flood; It was of the Colour of melted and burning Glaſs, but as it cool'd, became hard and rocky, leaving in its paſſage ſeveral Hills of that Matter behind it.

The poor People were in ſuch a Conſternation, that they expected nothing leſs than a general Conflagration; for at the ſame time *Mount Gebello* rag'd from its Top with dreadful Flames, and ſuch violent Roarings, that it was not eaſie to be determin'd, which caus'd the greateſt Terrour, that, or the Concuſſions of the Earth which yet continu'd.

Theſe Currents of Fire kept on their courſe ſtill, ſo that by *Thurſday March* the 24*th*. It had over-run *Campo Rotundo*, St. *Pietro*, and *Maſterbianco*, with *La Potelli*, and St. *Antonio*; Ruining all they mett with in their way, notwithſtanding the Rain which fell in abundance that

day;

day; for the Water was obſerv'd rather to add to the Fury of this Fire, then to any ways diminiſh it.

In the time of theſe diſmal affrights, whilſt the People were Aſtoniſh'd by their Fears, a great number of Robbers took an occaſion from this general diſtraction to make a Prey of the already deſtrſs'd People; which they found eaſie to be done, and had already Murthered ſeveral of them for their Goods: till Conſultation being had, leaſt *Catania* it ſelf ſhould be in danger from their great Numbers, orders were taken to quell them. The Governour of the Town was ordered to ſend out Parties with his Provoſt-Marſhal, with command to Seize on all ſuſpected Perſons, and to Execute them according to Marſhal-Law, without any farther Tryal, thoſe who where taken in the Fact. In order to this three pair of Gallows were Erected, one before the Gate *Di Aci*, a ſecond in the *Market-place*, and the third before the Gate *Della Decima*; ſtrong Guards being ſet every where. The poor People of the Country being by theſe Calamities ſtript of all their Eſtates, Ran with general Lamentations to the City *Catania*; which indeed was open'd to receive them, and orders taken to ſupply them with Neceſſities (ſupplies of Proviſion being alſo ſent from *Meſſina* to their aſſiſtance) till their Calamities would give them leave to conſider of their better diſpoſal.

At this time all the Element ſeem'd to make War upon them together, for the Air was continually darken'd

with

with Clouds and Smoak, insomuch that the Sun scarce appear'd all the time of these Eruptions, and if at any time, with extraordinary paleness to the great Terrour of of the People. The *Sea* ran higher than it was wont, over-flowing with extraordinary covering its Banks, in many places. The Land every where infected with Thieves, so that no one could stir abroad without danger of Death. Till by the great care of the Magistrates they were quell'd: whilst the Fire by its prodigious over-flowing threatn'd to take possion of all.

These fatal Calamities continued till the 30*th.* of *March*, when they began to have some hopes, that the violence of it had been over, the *Mountan* not throwing out its Flames with that Fury as before, and its Noise and Roaring in grear measure ceasing. Those who at the neareſt distance view'd the *Mountain*, inform'd, that the Top was fallen in, and that it was suppos'd to want near a Mile of its former Height; that the largest of those Mouths which Vomit those Fiery Streams, was about half a Mile in compass. The Matter which Issu'd out; was a mixture of all sorts of Metals, *Led*, *Iron*, *Brass* &c. Its Flame like Brimstone, and its Motion like that of Quick-silver. Wheresoever it pass'd it left large heaps of its Matter congeal'd, which are now to be seen, they still retain a Noisom Smell like that of Sulphur.

This Fiery Eruption lasted, (with some Intermissions of its violence, but still renewing it again afterwards) from the 19th. of *March*, till the 18th. of *April* 1669 having consum'd and wholy destroy'd Eleven Towns, not so much as one Foot-step of them Remaining, besides Farms, and other Villages.

DUBLIN, Decemb. *the* 6th. 1687.

THere has happened here such an Inundation as has not been known in the Memory of Man, or by any Record. The Rains have fallen extraordinary for these two Months past, but on *Saturday* last, in the Evening, a sudden Storm arose, the Wind being East, and South East, which raged with that violence, that it put the lower part of the City under water up to the first Floor in most of the Houses, and in some of them higher, insomuch that there was no passage along those streets but by Carriages; and the Rain continuing, the Waters came up almost as high as St. *Patrick's* Gate, and filled the Streets, so as Boats plied in them; and from *Kings-end* to *Cork hill*, all Kitchins and Cellars were full of Water, which rose also a Foot above the *Custom-house-key*, but, by the Care of the Officers, the Goods there in store were secured from Damage. All the Bridges upon the River are said to be broken down, and washed away, and, with the same Rapidity, the stream hath carried away great quantities of Timber, Goods of all sorts, and men as well as Cattle. It continued showering yesterday, and rais'd the Waters yet higher which broke down the Draw-Bridge of *Essex* Bridge, and a Gentleman passing over it at the same time in his Coach, he had the good Fortune to escape himself, but the Coach and Horses fell into the River, where the Coach man and one of the Horses perished. The Rain has since ceased, and the Water is much abated, and now People are at little leisure to consider the damage which the Deluge has done, and they find it exceeding great though we don't yet hear what prejudice it has done further up in the Country; yet we can't doubt but there must have been a proportionable Loss.

FINIS.

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